

FAX TRANSMISSION

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To: All News Media

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From: Cpl. Mark Francis
Lafayette P.D.

Subj.: News Release

COMMENTS:



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 28, 2005

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Burglary Arrest

A local man is in custody charged with multiple business burglaries following a crime spree that dates back to February of this year. On April 21, 2005 the suspect was arrested and charged with the burglary of Family Tree. One day later (4-22-05) the suspect was charged with Illegal Carrying of Weapons (burglary tools). Investigators have recovered more than **seventy** items from the suspect's residence and vehicle in connections with these burglaries. The suspect has been linked to **8** business burglaries in the city of Lafayette that occurred between February and April of 2005. **Forty-two** of the above-mentioned recovered items have been linked to eight business burglaries within the city. One of the businesses burglarized during this crime spree was Hardy's Cleaners, in which the suspect struck on four different occasions.

Investigators are reviewing several other related burglaries within the city of Lafayette, where the suspect is believed to be responsible. The identified businesses that were burglarized by suspect are Hardy's Cleaners, Aisha's Beauty Styling Salon, and Dr. Curtis Roy DDS, Dr. Munshi, Golden Cleaners, and the State of Louisiana (1102 Camellia Blvd). Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 232-TIPS.

Arrested: Benjamin Allen Gottke (35) of Lafayette.

Charges: Simple Burglary Business 8-counts, Illegal Possession of Stolen Things.